

SEA TURTLE SAMPLING PROTOCOLS

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Minimum requirements:

- 1 Identify and photograph.
- 2 Note any new or old injuries and scars.
- 3 Obtain 3 body measurements and 6 identification criteria.
- 4 Tag with inconel tag(s): 1 for dead sea turtles, 2 for live sea turtles > 26 cm carapace length.
- 5 Scan for PIT tags

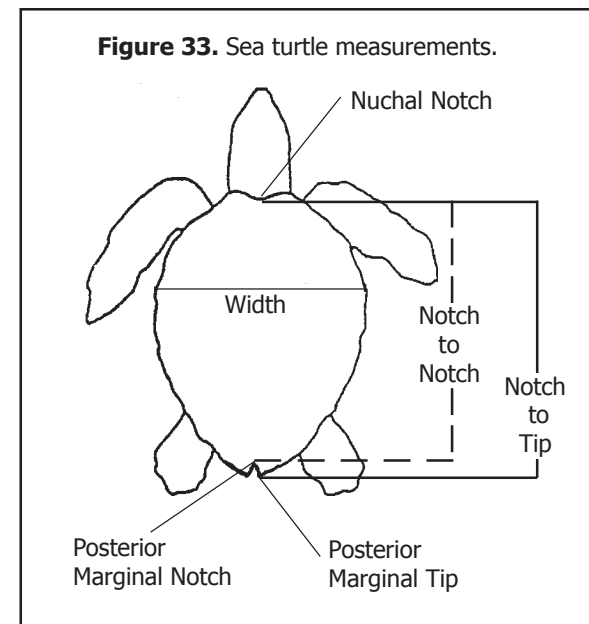
After sampling of the catch according to Tables 1a-f and/or Table 3 is completed, the following additional samples should be collected.

Live animals: Biopsy/tissue (genetic) sample from turtles larger than 30 cm carapace length.

Dead animals (in priority order):

- 1 Whole
- 2 Biopsy/tissue (genetic) sample

Biopsy Location: Dorsal surface rear flipper 5-10 cm from trailing edge and close to body. **One biopsy per rear flipper.**



Do not assume that an inactive turtle is dead. The onset of rigor mortis is often the only definitive indication that a turtle is dead.

RESUSCITATION:

- 1 Place the turtle right side up (on the bottom shell or plastron).
- 2 Elevate the hindquarter several inches for a period of 2 up to 24 hours.
- 3 Place turtle in the shade and kept moist.
- 4 Touch the eye and pinch the tail (reflex test) periodically to see if there is a response.

Those that revive and become active should be released over the stern of the boat when fishing gear is not in use, when the engine gears are in neutral position, and in areas where they are unlikely to be recaptured or injured by vessels. Sea turtles that fail to respond to the reflex test or fail to move within several hours (up to 24, if possible) should be returned to the water in the same manner.

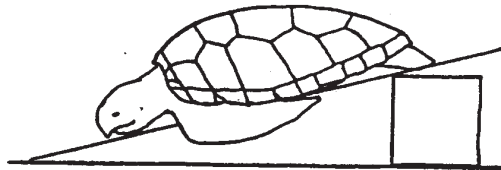
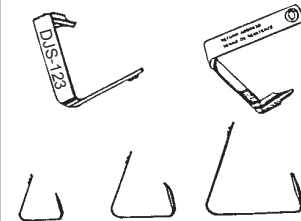


Figure 34. Proper positioning of turtle for resuscitation.

Figure 35. Inconel turtle tags.



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